and supply of LPG cylinders to the public;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and many agencies are running at present stating the name and the time of authority provided to them, State-wise details thereof

(c) if not, why the private agencies are inviting people for taking new LPG connections and whether Government have taken any action against such agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Under the Parallel Marketing System, private agencies have been allowed to import LPG, using/setting up their own facilities and distribution network for sale of such imported LPG, at market determined prices. No permission is required to be obtained from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for undertaking parallel marketing. However, they will have to obtain necessary approval under relevant Acts and Rules regarding safety; pollution control etc.; as applicable.

(b) to (d) Under the Parallel Marketing System private agencies are free to appoint distributors and register customers; without any involvement of Government. However, the State and UT Governments have been advised to ban collection of deposits by parallel marketeers for appointment of dealers and distributors as well as for registration of LPG customers without making adequate arrangements for regular supply of LPG.

Joint venture with China in Petroleum sector

261. MASS SAROJ KHAPARDE. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to China, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas signed any MOUs for joint venture between India and China in Petroleum sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the terms and conditions investment involved therein and benefits likely to accrue to both India and China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) At the conclusion of the recent visit of Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas to China, agreed minutes were signed between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the China National Petroleum Corporation for cooperation in the oil and gas sector. Memranda of understanding were also signed between ONGC, Oil India Ltd. and Engineers India Ltd. and their Chinese counterpart companies for cooperation in their related fields in the oil and gas sector.

Discovery of oil by ONGC in Tripura

262. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has discovered huge gas deposits of about 28 billion cubic meters in Tripura;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this gas can be supplied to gas based industries (viz. fertilizers, methanol or power plants) with modest gas demand at least for 20 years;

(c) whether it is a fact that several such proposals adequately processed by the State Government of Tripura have recently been turned down by the Central Government;

(d) whether it is also a fact that ONGC is withdrawing its drilling and exploration activities from Tripura in the pretext that there is no takers for gas in the State; and

(e) what are the reasons that no drilling plan is taken up by the ONGC management to tap the oil prospects of Basail reservoirs in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Allocations of 1.75 MMSCMD have already been made. The drawal of gas in 1993-94 was 0.28 MMSCMD.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) ONGC has planned to probe Barail prospects and has released four locations. One of these locations is likely to be taken up for drilling soon.

Damage in oil producing well, Golf Green-I

263. SHRI MD. SALIM:

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil producing well Golf Green-I is so severely damaged that no profitable production can be taken from that well;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that substitute well is not being taken up for drilling to tap the Eocene oil pool; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the well Golf Green-I has landed up into 200 per cent time and cost overrun due to erroneous decisions and policies of the management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No erroneous decisions were taken and the time and cost overrun in well Golf Green-I were because of technical requirements due to complications in the well.

Raid in Houses of Railway Officers

264. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Miniser of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the houses of Railway Officers were raided recently; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Raids were mainly on account of complaints of demand of bribe, possession of disproportionate assets and misuse of railway labour.

Konkan Railway

265. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made with regard to the setting up of Konkan railway as on 15th July, 1994;

(b) the work that has been completed so far from region to region; and

(c) what is the quantum of work to be completed in Goa region?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) 69 per cent.

(b) Roha—Veer section (48 KMs) from Roha end and Mangalore—Udipi section (68 KMs) from Mangalore